

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (original) Apparatus for depositing radioactive seeds into a patient's prostate in the vicinity of a patient's bladder, the apparatus comprising:

an elongated needle having first and second conductive traces, proximal and distal ends, and a lumen extending therebetween, the lumen adapted to accept a column of radioactive seeds and spacers, each of the first and second conductive traces having a tip region disposed at the distal end; and

circuitry coupled to the tip regions of the first and second conductive traces for detecting whether the distal end of the elongated needle projects into the patient's bladder.

2-21. (cancelled)

22. (new) The apparatus of claim 1 wherein the elongated needle is removably coupled to a reusable handle, and the circuitry is disposed within the handle.

23. (new) The apparatus of claim 2 wherein the circuitry further comprises circuitry for measuring a value indicative of an impedance of tissue disposed between the tip regions of the first and second conductive traces.

24. (new) The apparatus of claim 3 further comprising an indicator that displays a metric corresponding to a sensed value of tissue impedance.

25. (new) The apparatus of claim 4, wherein the indicator comprises a light meter.

26. (new) The apparatus of claim 1 further comprising a electrically insulating material disposed between the first and second conductive traces.

27. (new) The apparatus of claim 6 wherein the electrically insulating material comprises a layer of electrically non-conductive material disposed on an outer surface of the needle, and the first and second conductive traces are disposed on the layer.

28. (new) The apparatus of claim 1 further comprising a plunger disposed within the lumen to deposit

the column of radioactive seeds and spacers within the prostate.

29. (new) The apparatus of claim 1 wherein the first and second conductive traces comprise metallic films.

30. (new) The apparatus of claim 9 wherein the metallic films comprise a material selected from a group consisting of copper, nickel, and a composite of teflon and silver.